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**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT**

**I. HEADING**

DATE: March 22, 2002

SUBJECT: 4834 South Halsted Site, Chicago, IL

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National Response Center (USCG) POLREP distribution

POLREP 1 – Initial Pollution Report

**II. BACKGROUND**

Site No.:	Not available
CERCLIS ID Number:	Not available
Technical Direction Document Number:	S05-0203-008
Response Authority:	CERCLA
NPL Status:	Not on NPL
Latitude/Longitude:	41°48'23" N/87°38'45" W
Start Date:	March 11, 2002
Completion Date:	Pending

**III. SITE INFORMATION**

**A. Incident Category**

CERCLA Emergency Response

**B. Site Description**

**1. Site Location**

The site is a seven acre warehouse located at 4834 South Halsted in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois (41°48'23" N, 87°38'45" W), and was formerly leased to Ion Exchange Products, a water treatment company. A small lab located inside the warehouse was used for water

treatment tests and contained an assortment of laboratory chemicals. Ion Exchange Products vacated the building in 1999 after being a tenant for approximately one year, leaving behind the laboratory chemicals. Currently, a dry cleaning and laundry equipment storage company leases space within the warehouse and a paper products company leases parking space outside the warehouse. The area is surrounded by industrial property.

## **2. Description of Threat**

The Chicago Department of Environment (CDOE) referred the site to the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Emergency Response Branch (ERB) on March 11, 2002. Small quantities of hazardous chemicals found in the Chicago subway system were suspected to have originated from the site laboratory. Signs of trespassing were evident by graffiti located inside the laboratory.

# **IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION**

## **A. Situation**

### **1. Current situation:**

All of the characterized chemicals found on the site have been properly segregated, lab packed and taken off site for treatment and disposal. One drum containing an unknown liquid remains on site in a secure location awaiting characterization analytical results.

### **2. Site activities to date:**

U.S. EPA and Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) mobilized to site on Monday, March 11, 2002. U.S. EPA, START, and CDOE performed a reconnaissance of the laboratory and warehouse. Drums of sulfuric acid, hypochlorite and resins were found inside the warehouse, in addition to the small quantities of laboratory chemicals. START performed an inventory of all chemicals on site.

The current property owner agreed to supply 24-hour security to the site, as requested by U.S. EPA, as well as procure a firm to lab pack and remove the chemicals from the site.

On Saturday, March 16, 2002, U.S. EPA and START provided oversight of hazardous material characterization (hazcatting) and lab packing. START also took photographs of each individual chemical container. All known chemicals were segregated and lab packed.

On Monday, March 18, 2002, U.S. EPA and START provided oversight of hazcatting and lab packing of the unknown chemicals. The U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID) collected samples from the drums found in the warehouse. START also performed radiation survey of material stored in a lead-lined drum. Results indicated that the material was not radioactive. All chemicals were lab packed and staged for removal before departure.

On Wednesday, March 20, 2002, START provided oversight of removal of drums and lab packed materials. The drums and lab packs were taken to a secure location off-site pending final disposal by Clean Harbors. The drum containing an unknown liquid was transported to a secure location within the warehouse and will be removed once characterization analytical results are received by contractor.

### **3. Enforcement:**

The U.S. EPA CID is currently seeking the former owner of Ion Exchange Products.

**B. Next Steps**

All materials will be properly disposed of at the Clean Harbors facility in Chicago, IL.

**C. Key Issues**

A Drum of unknown liquid remains on site awaiting characterization analytical results.

**V. COST INFORMATION**

USEPA Not Available  
START \$ 956.60

Total \$ 956.60 (Estimated as of March 17, 2002)

**The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.**

**VI. DISPOSITION OF WASTES**

Wastestream	Medium	Quantity	Containment-Migration Control	Disposal
Sulfuric acid	Liquid	550 gallons	Drummed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Hypochlorite solution	Liquid	165 gallons	Drummed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Nitric acid	Liquid	55 gallons	Drummed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Potassium permanganate	Solid	100 pounds	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Sodium hydroxide solution	Liquid	85 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Hydrochloric acid	Liquid	30 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Corrosive, acidic, inorganic	Liquid	55 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Flammables	Liquid	110 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL

Corrosive, flammable	Liquid	55 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Corrosive, acidic, inorganic	Liquid	30 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Perchloric acid	Liquid	20 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Self-heating solid, organic	Solid	25 pounds	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Water-reactive solids, self-heating	Solid	7 pounds	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Mercury compounds	Liquid	5 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Corrosive, toxic	Liquid	30 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Aerosols	Liquid	5 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Aniline	Liquid	5 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Oxidizing, toxic	Liquid	30 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Toxic, organic	Liquid	55 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Corrosive, basic, inorganic	Liquid	5 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Sodium cyanaide	Liquid	1 gallon	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Brucine	Solid	1 pound	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Organic peroxide Type D	Liquid	5 gallons	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Phenylenediamines	Solid	4 pounds	Lab packed	Clean Harbors, Chicago, IL
Oxidizing	Liquid	5 gallons	Lab packed	Spring Grove Resource Recovery, Cincinnati, OH
Corrosive, basic, inorganic	Liquid	15 gallons	Lab packed	Spring Grove Resource Recovery, Cincinnati, OH

Flammable, organic	Solid	4 pounds	Lab packed	Spring Grove Resource Recovery, Cincinnati, OH
Flammable	Liquid	5 gallons	Lab packed	Spring Grove Resource Recovery, Cincinnati, OH
Corrosive, acidic, inorganic	Liquid	5 gallons	Lab packed	Spring Grove Resource Recovery, Cincinnati, OH
Corrosive, acidic, inorganic	Solid	5 pounds	Lab packed	Spring Grove Resource Recovery, Cincinnati, OH
Toxic, inorganic	Liquid	25 gallons	Lab packed	Spring Grove Resource Recovery, Cincinnati, OH
Toxic, inorganic	Solid	17 pounds	Lab packed	Spring Grove Resource Recovery, Cincinnati, OH